

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node, comprising:

receiving a Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST_PLAY navigation message, that includes at least one (n+1) tuple, multidimensional pointer, at said network node, said multidimensional pointer associated with a media clip in a depository of digital multimedia content that is organized into a nested hierarchical arrangement having a plurality of levels that correspond to respective media identifier dimensions of said RTSP multidimensional pointer, said navigation message further including a relative time offset within said media clip, and a timing parameter operable to indicate when said navigation message is to be activated by said network node; and

transferring digital multimedia content to a digital multimedia device by said network node from a particular content source identified by said multidimensional pointer, said transferring commencing at a time indicated responsive to said timing parameter.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 1, wherein a first level of said depository of digital multimedia content comprises at least one server-side playlist identified by a uniform resource locator.

5. (Original) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 4, wherein said at least one server-side playlist includes one or more media clips, each being identified by a corresponding media source identifier and a relative time offset within said media clip.

6. (Previously Presented) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 1, wherein said digital multimedia device accesses said network node over at least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, or a cable network.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 1, wherein said digital multimedia device comprises at least one of: digital music players, digital video players, computers, or handheld communication devices enabled to accept streaming media.

8. (Previously Presented) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 1, wherein said timing parameter is operable to assume a value selected from the group consisting of: NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node, comprising:

means for receiving a Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST_PLAY navigation message, that includes at least one (n+1) tuple, multidimensional pointer, at said network node, said at least one multidimensional pointer associated with a media clip in a depository of digital multimedia content that is organized into a nested hierarchical arrangement having a plurality of levels that correspond to respective

media identifier dimensions of said RTSP multidimensional pointer, said navigation message further including a relative time offset within said media clip, and a timing parameter operable to indicate when said navigation message is to be activated by said network node; and

means for transferring digital multimedia content to said digital multimedia device by said network node from a particular content source identified by said multidimensional pointer, said transferring commencing at a time indicated responsive to said timing parameter.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 9, wherein a first level of said depository of digital multimedia content comprises at least one server-side playlist identified by a uniform resource locator.

13. (Original) The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 12, wherein said at least one server-side playlist includes one or more media clips, each being identified by a corresponding media source identifier and a relative time offset within said media clip.

14. (Previously Presented) The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 9, wherein said digital multimedia device is operable to access said network node over at least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, or a cable network.

15. (Previously Presented) The system for retrieving digital

multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 9, wherein said digital multimedia device comprises at least one of: digital music players, digital video players, computers, or handheld communication devices enabled to accept streaming media.

16. (Previously Presented) The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 9, wherein said timing parameter is operable to assume a value selected from the group consisting of: NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.

17. (Currently Amended) A digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node, comprising:

logic for receiving a Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST_PLAY navigation message, that includes at least one (n+1) tuple, multidimensional pointer, at said network node, said message containing at least one multidimensional pointer associated with a media clip in a depository of digital multimedia content that is organized into a nested hierarchical arrangement having a plurality of levels that correspond to respective media identifier dimensions of said RTSP multidimensional pointer, said navigation message further including a relative time offset within said media clip, and a timing parameter operable to indicate when said navigation message is to be activated by said network node; and

a player engine operable to play back streaming content from a particular content source identified by said multidimensional pointer, said streaming content commencing at a time indicated responsive to said timing parameter.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein a first level of said plurality of media identifier dimensions comprises a uniform resource locator identifying a server-side playlist.

21. (Previously Presented) The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 20, wherein a second level of said plurality of media identifier dimensions comprises at least one of a media source identifier for identifying a particular media clip within said server-side playlist or another server-side playlist identifier.

22. (Previously Presented) The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said multidimensional pointer includes the relative time offset within said media clip.

23. (Previously Presented) The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 17, further comprising means for accessing said network node over at least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, or a cable network.

24. (Previously Presented) The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said timing parameter is operable to assume a value selected from the group consisting of: NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.

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